

Hongkong, but there is very little
chance of collecting here. With reference
to an observation in your report just to
hand I would observe that in Hongkong
itself Osmunda regalis occurs both
with fertile & sterile fronds separate
and conjoined.

With many thanks for your
kind remembrance of me,
I am,

My dear Dr. Gray,

Very sincerely Yours

H. J. Hance

British Consulate, Canton,
7. August 1859.

My dear Dr. Gray,

I have just received, addressed to
me in your handwriting, two sheets on the
Botany of Japan, of the very greatest interest,
and rendered still more valuable by the
comparative statistical tables after the
pattern of those in your admirable paper
on the Statistics of the U. S. flora. The
extensive series of American plants for
which I am indebted to your liberality,
my few specimens from Japan and
Manchuria, and a number of plants
from the Himalayas kindly sent me by
Dr. Bentham have naturally brought pro-
minently before me the curious relationship
between the floras of Hongkong and these
several regions which has within these
last few years been so unexpectedly detected,
and any paper tending to throw light on
the subject is therefore particularly welcome.
There can, I think, be no doubt that this
discovery must lead us to expect less
novelty in the flora of China than most

botanists would have been inclined to look for, and also that it will greatly tend to the more general acceptance of those views (of which Dr. Hooker is the more prominent advocate) regarding the variability and distribution of species which have given such a salutary check to the species making mania. But the paper I got from you is very incomplete - extracted, as I presume, from some scientific periodical - and comprises merely 8 pages, from 421 to 428. I should be much indebted if you could when complete furnish me with the remainder, as such a notice is really invaluable to me, and I should also be glad to know what the Præcursores of Hooker & Thomson are. I never heard of them before. Bentham informs me that a portion of the results of his examination of Chinese plants collected by the late Dr. Harland and myself have been sent by him to you for publication - and this paper also w^d. of course be very welcome. And if I might venture still further to trespass on your kindness I would ask you if you could give me the titles

of various memoirs on N. Am. botany which I see constantly referred to in the Railway Route Reports such as Emory's, Sitgreaves', Mexican Boundary & ^{several} other reports, the titles of which I cannot remember, i.e. provided I am likely to be able to procure them through Messrs. Putnam who have a house in London - to which the addition of the price or an approximation thereof would be useful. These memoirs are always useful but it is of course out of the question to purchase them if the doing so involves the buying of some voluminous report to which they merely form a small appendix. I am sorry to say I am doing very little now in the way of botany. Canton is a very bad station - and the recent disastrous republic we have experienced at Tientsin and the uncertainty and insecurity of our position at this place render me unwilling to bring up many books - whilst my herbarium is all at Hong Kong. I am glad to be able to report that all your beautiful specimens are now incorporated therewith. I have found an Artocarpus in